

## 14 Leadership Traits

Source: p. 44 of a 1981 USMC text

According to *some* recent “authorities” the concept of leadership “traits” is bogus. However, these studied traits worked for me and since hubris is avoidable, I’ll continue to believe that I’m not born of the gods and thus it is hoped that this study might work for you too.

*“To thine own self be true.” (Wm. Shakespeare)*

1. INTEGRITY
2. KNOWLEDGE
3. COURAGE
4. DECISIVENESS
5. DEPENDABILITY
6. INITIATIVE
7. TACT
8. JUSTICE
9. ENTHUSIASM
10. BEARING
11. ENDURANCE
12. UNSELFISHNESS
13. LOYALTY
14. JUDGMENT

Semantic Antics: Taking issue with a few of the words.

Potential Alterations -

Knowledge – Competence

The learned person is not necessarily wise. Knowing things is not the equivalent of being able to apply learning to a situation. Many a “credentialed” specialist cannot apply that knowledge to situations in life.

Decisiveness – Confidence

A confident man is decisive; a confident

Dependability - Reliability

Who can you trust? Can you trust in yourself?

Confidence not derived from competence is usually a sign of arrogance; even (and especially) arrogant people despise arrogance. This is because arrogant people are generally not compassionate and people

lacking in compassion are seen as selfish even if they are not. Selfish people care little for the well-being of others.

Endurance— Perseverance

Many can “endure” harsh weather, but perseverance is NEVER giving up. Never giving up is perhaps the hardest of things, especially when surrender can save lives.

Unselfishness – Compassion – Selflessness – Sacrifice?

A willingness to look beyond personal desires and even needs to sacrifice self-interest for the good of others.

We will be examining each of these words in detail and considering changes, additions, deletions, etc.